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Gálvez claim that he was harsh and vindictive toward his opponents, and unnecessarily cruel in suppressing malcontents, and Mr. Priestly coincides with this view. But the visitor's main purpose was to increase the revenues of the crown by checking graft and preventing waste in the public service. He did not aim to improve the methods of legal procedure or to correct the more glaring social and economic abuses that affected New Spain. The discontent excited by his severity came to a head a generation later in the wars of independence, but in the interim the revenues of New Spain were more productive than ever before in their history. For this reason Gálvez is accounted one of the two most efficient colonial administrators of the Bourbon régime.

A long closing chapter on the *Real Hacienda*, both before and after the time of Gálvez, serves the double purpose of summarizing the fiscal side of his work and of explaining in some detail the various sources of royal revenue from the colony and the method by which it was collected and transmitted to Spain. While this chapter has fewer references to manuscript sources than the others, it shows careful study of the best authorities and affords a welcome summary of this difficult field. In general, Mr. Priestly has handled his sources well and presents his conclusions tersely and clearly. He gives a complete bibliography and a full usable index. A portrait of Gálvez and a view of his birthplace, with several reproductions of contemporary maps, comprise the illustrations. The sketch map at the close of the volume contains too few names to be thoroughly useful. One may criticise his use of italic type, or his failure in a few instances to use it, but the author himself has already disarmed this criticism. Altogether he is to be congratulated for having produced a useful and readable study in Latin American institutional history.

I. J. Cox

Cotton as a world power. A study in the economic interpretation of history. By James A. B. Sherer, Ph.D., LL.D., president of Throop college of technology. (New York: Frederick A. Stokes company, 1916. 452 p. \$2.50 net)

Mr. Sherer tells us that some years ago, while reading Frank Norris's novel *The octopus* the thought occurred to him that the epic of the wheat was of no more interest than the story of cotton, "the new golden fleece." The result is a neat and attractive volume in which the author has sought to tell with some literary embellishment the history of cotton from its earliest antiquity to the present day.

Perhaps there was little opportunity in one small volume to bring out much new material on so large a subject, but at any rate Mr. Sherer has

given us for the greater part nothing but a compilation from the standard authorities. The book is in no sense a contribution to the history of the subject, and even as a summary it falls far short of Mr. B. Hammond's classical *Cotton culture and the cotton trade*. It is only fair to state, however, that it was evidently not intended to compete with such books as Hammond's, but was written for the general reader whose patience is short and who must have his history served with a literary flavor. For even the casual student of industrial history there is nothing new. Only the most elementary facts are to be found concerning the discovery of the cotton plant, the introduction of the fibre into the commerce of Europe, the early history of weaving, the industrial revolution in England, the beginning of cotton planting in America, Whitney's gin, the development of cotton culture and of its handmaiden slavery, of cotton milling in New England, of the part played by cotton in secession and the war, and the cotton famine in Lancashire. There is no wandering from the well-beaten track. Yet it was a part of the author's declared purpose "to suggest its [cotton's] wholly unappreciated effect on the history of the United States" (p. 5).

In the later chapters, approximately one-fourth of the book, there is a very inadequate account — perhaps necessarily so — of cotton culture in the "new south," with some reflections upon social conditions and problems in the cotton belt, a somewhat better summing up of the growth of southern cotton mills, and a general survey of the staple as a factor in world trade before and after the outbreak of the world war. Although he still relies for statements of fact chiefly upon the work of other men, in these chapters the author gives freer play to his own opinions and he is to the same degree more interesting. The fact that he is southern born and reared has perhaps enabled him to write with full appreciation of the southern point of view, as it may also account for the charm and interest which his subject has for him. The reader is likely to be puzzled to discover the relevancy of the final chapter, "Evolution and human welfare," wherein our historian turns philosopher and moralist and argues that the old belief that continual strife and the survival of the strongest is the law of life must give way to the newer conception of "integration" as the guiding factor in the life of nations as of plants and animals.

The conscientious reviewer in scanning the pages closely for errors finds few of any kind and none of serious consequence. The citations to authorities are sometimes made carelessly and here and there an inference more often than a statement of fact seems overdrawn or unwarranted. The book is well written and is likely to have a large popular audience. Its short chapters, which average something less than four

pages, should appeal especially to those readers whose intellectual wings are trained only to short flights. The volume is not overburdened with statistical tables, but those which are needed are usually found in the right place. The appendix comprises about thirty-seven pages of literary *curiosa*, statistics, and bibliography. The index is satisfactory.

CHARLES W. RAMSDELL

Caribbean interests of the United States. By Chester Lloyd Jones, professor of political science, University of Wisconsin. (New York: D. Appleton and company, 1916. 379 p. \$2.50 net)

This volume is not a history of the American tropics, nor is it a mere travelogue interspersed with random statistics. It is an illuminating study, based partly on personal observation, of some social and economic phases of present day life in the Caribbean. Occasionally the author touches upon political conditions when necessary to explain the purport of his economic data. In his hands the Monroe doctrine seems almost wholly an economic policy; American intervention becomes the certain forerunner of commercial prosperity.

The facts presented appear to justify this economic emphasis. Certain tropical products, notably the banana and other fruits, have given a new emphasis to international trade in Central America and the West Indies. Older products such as sugar, coffee, and tobacco have assumed a new importance with greater political stability and the influx of foreign capital. New and improved facilities for transportation have rendered these products and other resources more available and at the same time, as in the case of petroleum, more desirable in themselves. To crown all the completion of the Panama canal promises, with the restoration of normal conditions, to break up the commercial isolation that for half a century has retarded progress in the American Mediterranean.

Two chapters are devoted to the general importance of the Caribbean and the development therein of American influence. Then follows a discussion of the political and commercial conditions in the various European colonies, of which those of Great Britain are the most important. The Danish West Indies have changed their nationality since the appearance of the book and Mr. Charles H. Sherrell would have us believe that a like change would benefit the other remaining European dependencies, their present owners, and the United States. At any rate the author is content to make it appear that our country is bound to get the lion's share of profit from them all, as well as from the independent republics and protectorates of the region. A mutual dependence between American capital and staple agricultural products has produced wonderful effects during the past twenty years and these factors seem destined to exert a more profound influence in the immediate future.